There is a show on television that I watch once in a while and the premise is that these two guys travel around the country in a van picking through people’s junk looking for hidden treasure. American Pickers captures my fascination because of the American history aspect to it but also because they look for houses with the most junk laying around.

I am amazed at the prices that things end up selling for or sometimes people won’t sell because they are so attached to it.

There is a danger for us as followers of Christ to attach to great a value to earthly possessions.

Intro to Cultivating a Kingdom Heart

David was a “man with a heart after God” we want to learn how we cultivate that.

Spend two weeks in this chapter-steward & warrior

Next week especially for men we are going to see what made David a great warrior.

Today we want to talk about

**Cultivating the Heart of a Steward 1 Samuel 17**

The story we find here in chapter 17 of 1 Samuel seems an odd one to be talking about the principles of stewardship but I assure you they are there and we want to develop a few of them this morning. We also will see how they influenced David’s life and how God accomplished great things through David because he recognized the value of what he had been given.

What is it that makes David go to battle Goliath? What kind of unearthly confidence, what secret weapon would make a young man like this attempt such a thing? How does he go from shepherd to giant-slayer?

Intro story of David and Goliath

The giant, Goliath, has been taunting the Israelite army for forty days, challenging an individual to come and fight him and if he wins the Israelites would become the servants of the Philistines and if the Israelite wins the Philistines would become servants of the Israelites. For forty days, no one has answered that challenge. It just so happens that David whom we saw was secretly anointed as the king of Israel last week has been tending sheep for his father, Jesse, while his older brothers went off to the battle. On this day, Jesse has sent David to take food to his brothers and return with news of their health. So David goes and he hears Goliath’s taunts and asks “who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” The fleeing Israelites tell him who he is what has been happening and that the king will reward whoever faces the Philistine and kills him. Saul overhears what David has said and sends for him. (vs. 1-31)

***32-And David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” 33 And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.”***

***34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” 37 And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!”***

The first principle cultivating the heart of a steward…

**Reconciles the past with the present**

David recognized that how God used David the past were relevant to the giant he was facing now.

There were good things that had given David experience in how to deal with threats.

In this moment David has already transformed from shepherd to Giant slayer. He has come to terms with who he is, where he has been and what he has been doing.

David was prepared to do what God needed him to do because he had been faithful doing what God needed to be done.

Lion and bear killing on his resume because he was willing to watch his father’s sheep

**Negative pasts:**

A steward has faced/owned/accepted the experiences God prepared for him.

You are a steward of the circumstances and past experiences. You do not have to be a slave to your past.

Thy mercies are new every morning (Lam. 3:22)

You carry the good and bad with you—what you have learned, how you have grown, what skills you have developed.

David could have said, “I am just a shepherd”.

David’s past experience was faced boldly, he may have wondered why, but it became apparent in his present situation.

Joseph waited 13 years-prison

Abraham waited 25 years for Isaac

Moses was prepared to lead the Israelites through the wilderness because he had been there himself for 40 years

Moses waited 40 years in the desert

-Moses did try “I am slow of speech and slow of tongue”

If David believed what his culture said about him, he wouldn’t have gone. Even his own brother thinks he’s just there to get a front row seat for the battle (v.28)

Everyone’s past is unique-good or bad. We do with it what we will,

Your history of faith, the battles you’ve fought are a valuable resource.

We would like to think that we can just become immediate giant slayers when we come to faith, but it’s just not true. There are years of watching after the sheep.

So many people are slaves to their past.

What if David had said about Goliath, “Well I’ve only killed a lion and a bear I’ve never met a giant before!”

When you come to faith in Christ your past is history; it’s forgotten.

God doesn’t care about your past, His Son died to cover it. He cares about your present and your future.

There is pain and problems in your past that you own and that you are still holding onto. These things are preventing you from reaching the promise God has for you.

If God has forgiven it, why haven’t you? You can keep making excuses or you can embrace God’s forgiveness and move on.

You cannot be an effective servant of God until you have come to terms with who you are and what He wants to do in you.

You have to drop that baggage and pick up a weapon.

It’s possible that you are here this morning and you are so hindered by your past that you feel unworthy and unable to be used by God. I’m here to tell you that your past is preparing you for what He still wants to do in you.

PICK UP YOUR WEAPON

Transition:

Intro to Goliath’s weapons **vs. 4-7**

***A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels;*** (126 lbs.) ***6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.***

This is what David goes out to face as a young shepherd boy. You must see the sheer insanity of this picture!

In the eyes of the physical/material world, this battle is no contest. David is physically inferior. Goliath has been a man of war from his youth (v. 33).

He is materially inadequate. His armor weighs 126 pounds. David might not even weigh 126 pounds. The tip of Goliath’s spear weighs 15 lbs. David is but a boy.

Yet here stands David ready to go to war with this giant because he has blasphemed the “armies of the living God”.

Saul, who himself stood head and shoulders above other men, fears he’s sending a lamb to the slaughter, sees the odds and decides as king he should at least offer some protection.

***38 Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, 39 and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, “I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.” So David put them off.***

It’s possible that this was the only suit of armor the nation of Israel had. (1 Samuel 13:19) We often get confused about who was primitive and who was advanced. We even use the word “Philistine” to mean savage. Actually the reverse is true, the Philistines were advanced and the Israelites were primitive.

*Proverbs 20:6-7-ESV-Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand.*

***7*** *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

***40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd’s pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.***

David is a steward of the weapons/resources God has given him

**Recognizes and tests their resources**

Our weapons are not carnal; we do not wage war as the world does (2 Cor 10:4)

In the physical world David is overwhelmed; but in the spiritual realm David’s God is bigger than all others; and his heart is stronger than all others.

Christians to often think like the rest of the world that our greatest resource is money.

Ill: NFL players & Lottery winners-notes from Hunter Smith

78% of NFL players are divorced and/or bankrupt 2 years after retirement

90% of players who made over 15 million are bankrupt.

If you think money is the answer to all your problems you’ll never have it. If you know that God equips you with what you need for the battle ahead you will never lack. If you are invested in the kingdom of God you realize that everything on this earth you are a steward of including, family, past experiences, finances, employment opportunities. Anything that you do not ultimately control you are a steward of.

When God called Moses to free His people from the powerful Pharaoh where they had been in slavery for 400 years, Moses after 40 years in the wilderness said, “they will not believe me”. (Ex. 4:1) God said to him “What is in your hand?” Moses said, “A staff”, and God said, “Throw it on the ground.” Moses did and God began to use him with displays of mighty power to bring His people to the promised land. What if Moses did not believe in the power of God and held onto his staff?

**-God cannot use what we have not tested**

Sadly, not only do many Christians have more knowledge than they will ever use in serving the kingdom, they also have many other resources that they have never tested.

Some have finances that they have never tested.

Some have spiritual gifts that they have never tested.

Some have faith that has never been proven.

Some of you are going through something right now and God is testing your resources. Will you use them?

Part of our stewardship of resources is not saving/preserving-but wielding and using (next week’s warriors)

They are provided for practical use; not for appearances.

The one who owns the cattle on a thousand hills does not require your resources; He provides His own.

David could not use the armor because he had not tested it but he had tested himself against a bear and a lion. He had faced earlier battles. What if David had not faced the lion and the bear? Does he now have the courage to face Goliath?

We have to test what God has given us.

We cannot use someone else’s spiritual gifts to fight our spiritual battles.

“God if I only had the gift of… I would serve, witness, testify, give and give you all the glory.” You must recognize and test what you have.

What if David does go out in Saul’s armor? Where is his trust? Does God get the glory that a shepherd boy clothed in the king’s armor defeated a giant?

18:12, 14 remind us what was told us in 16:18 “the Lord is with him”

This is the proof that God is with us and in us because with the feeble weapons we bring to the battle He accomplishes great victories.

It does us no good to covet others weapons and battles because God has called us to this battle on this day and He has given us the weapons (next week?)

We need to conclude this morning by seeing what God did in the life of David because he had faced up to his past and embraced and tested the resources he had.

***2 Sam 7:7-9, 16***

***8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.***

 ***16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’ ”***

God had brought David from watching his father’s sheep to watching the Father’s sheep.

They were not David’s sheep.

They were not David’s people (which is why he got into trouble when he tried to count them 1 Chron 21).

Psalm 78:70-72 ESV

*He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds;*

***71*** *from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people,*

*Israel his inheritance.*

***72*** *With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.*

*Ps. 78:72 And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.*

The lowly shepherd David was anointed, called and prepared by God to shepherd God’s people, Israel. As a man after God’s own heart he shepherded them with integrity.

**Conclusion:**

In order to cultivate the heart of a steward

Reconcile your past

Recognize God’s gifts/resources

Slays/overcome/defeats Giants

Everything I have is God’s…everything.

There is nothing I have which cannot be taken away from me so I want to use it all for His glory-health, family, possessions, wisdom,

Jim Eliot quote:

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

Here’s what we get hung up on. We think that if we steward well, we get the reward. You do not get to the reward in this life

God promises you a peace that will let you watch over the sheep. You may experience some spiritual victory; you may slay some giants but ultimate victory isn’t achieved until you are done on this earth.

You are not done yet! Rise up warrior, gather your sling, wield your weapon, pick up the stones!

You may feel like you don’t have anything to offer; you don’t have anything to left. You’ve still got some stones left.